What is claimed is:

1. A method for purifying a protein, which comprises a C_H2/C_H3 region, from a contaminated solution thereof by Protein A chromatography comprising:

(a) adsorbing the protein from said contaminated solution to Protein A immobilized on a solid phase;

(b) removing contaminants by washing the solid phase with a composition comprising detergent and salt at about pH 4.5 to about 5.5; and

(c) recovering the protein from the solid phase with an elution buffer having a pH in the range from about 2 to about 5.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the solid phase comprises silica, glass, agarose, or polystyrene.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the solid phase. comprises silica or glass.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the protein is an antibody or an immunoadhesin.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the protein is an antibody.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody binds an antigen selected from the group consisting of HER2, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), IgE, CD20, CD40, CD11a, tissue factor (TF), prostate stem cell antigen (PSCA), interleukin-8 (IL-8), epidermal growth factor receptor (EGER), HER3, HER4, $\alpha4\beta7$ and $\alpha5\beta3$.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is an anti-HER2 antibody.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is an anti-IgE antibody.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the detergent is polysorbate.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the concentration of the polysorbate in the composition is from about 0.1 to about 1%.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the salt is acetate or citrate.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the concentration of the salt in the composition is from about 0.2 to about 0.6 M.

13. A method for purifying a protein, which comprises a C_H2/C_H3 region, from a contaminated solution thereof by Protein A chromatography comprising:

(a) adsorbing the protein to Protein A immobilized on a solid phase;

(b) removing contaminants by washing the solid phase with a composition comprising a buffer at a concentration of greater than about 0.8M; and

(c) recovering the protein from the solid phase.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the buffer is Tris acetate.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the concentration of the Tris acetate buffer is from about 0.8 to about 1.5 M.

16. A method for purifying a protein, which comprises a C_H2/C_H3 region, from a contaminated solution thereof by Protein A chromatography comprising:

(a) adsorbing the protein to Protein A immobilized on a solid phase;

(b) removing contaminants by washing the solid phase with a composition comprising salt and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, acetonitrile, hexylene glycol, propylene glycol, and 2,2-thiodiglycol; and

(c) recovering the protein from the solid phase.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the solvent is hexylene glycol.

18. A method for purifying a protein, which comprises a C_H2/C_H3 region, from a contaminated solution thereof by Protein A chromatography comprising:

(a) adsorbing the protein to Protein A immobilized on a solid phase;

(b) removing contaminants by washing the solid phase with a composition comprising salt and a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropyl glycol, and copolymers of ethylene and propylene glycol; and

(c) recovering the protein from the solid phase.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the polymer is polyethylene glycol.

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